

Sinclair
Broadcasting Group's
upcoming deliberate
smearing of one
presidential
candidate over
another weeks before
an election has no
place in media
programming governed
by FCC regulations.

It is the
obligation of FCC
license holders to
present a balanced
approach to
broadcasting.

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
"documentary" days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair's excuses,
including their
claim that they have
invited presidential
candidate John Kerry
to respond to this
attack, are
absolutely
insufficient. They
know full well that
Kerry's intense
campaign schedule is
already fully
booked, and
nevertheless that
this would be
utterly imbalanced
and partisan.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get

more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard.

Thank you very much.